



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

November 30, 2007

S. 1970

A bill to establish a National Commission on Children and Disasters, and for other purposes

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
on November 15, 2007*

S. 1970 would authorize the appropriation of \$3 million to establish the National Commission on Children and Disasters. The commission would be responsible for conducting a comprehensive study on the needs of children in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from major disasters and emergencies. Based on the historical spending patterns of similar-sized commissions, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$1 million in 2008 and \$3 million over the 2008-2010 period. Because S. 1970 would authorize the commission to accept and use gifts, the legislation could affect revenues and direct spending. CBO estimates, however, that any revenues from contributions and subsequent direct spending would offset over the next three years—resulting in no net effect on the federal budget.

S. 1970 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$1.5 million for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009 to establish the new commission, which would be composed of 10 members, including individuals in the private sector and state and local governments with experience in emergency management and child services. No later than two years after the enactment of this legislation, the commission would report to Congress on the needs of children as they relate to preparing for, responding to, and recovering from major disasters and emergencies. The commission would be disbanded 180 days after submitting this report.

On November 2, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 3495, the Kids in Disasters Well-being, Safety, and Health Act of 2007, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. That legislation would authorize the appropriation of an additional \$1 million above amounts authorized in S. 1970.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Daniel Hoople. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.